

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous listings of claims.

1. (Currently Amended). A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second jaws ~~jaw members~~ associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaws ~~jaw members~~ being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position, in which clamped position the jaws ~~jaw members~~ are substantially parallel, at least portions of the jaws ~~jaw members~~ being parallel through a range of tissue clamping spacing, such portion of each jaw ~~jaw member~~ including a clamping surface having a width;

a first elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface of the first jaw ~~member~~ and forming a part thereof, the first elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a width, the clamping surface including non-conductive portions disposed on each side of the tissue contacting portion of the first electrode, the width of the clamping surface exclusive of the width of the tissue contacting portion of the first electrode being ~~substantially wider~~ than the width of the tissue contacting portion;

a second elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface of the second jaw ~~member~~ and forming a part thereof, the second elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a width, the clamping surface including non-conductive portions disposed on each side of the tissue contacting portion of the second electrode, the width of the clamping surface exclusive of the width of the tissue contacting portion of the second electrode being ~~substantially wider~~ than the width of the

tissue contacting portion;

the first and second electrodes being in face-to-face relationship and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity and are operable to create a line of ablation therebetween ~~substantially~~ narrower than the width of the clamping surface.

2. (Currently amended). The device of claim 1 wherein the parallel jaws ~~jaw members~~ are spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the clamped position.

3. (Currently Amended). A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second parallel grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, ~~the spacing between the~~ jaws ~~jaw members~~ being substantially parallel ~~constant~~ when in the closed position and at least portions of the jaws being parallel through a range of clamping spacing; each jaw including an elongated electrode and a clamping surface on such portion in face-to-face relation with the electrode and clamping surface of the other jaw; each clamping surface having a width and including non-conductive portions; each elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface and forming a part thereof, and each elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a width; the width of each clamping surface exclusive of the width of the tissue contacting portion of the respective electrode being ~~substantially~~ wider than the width of the tissue contacting portion; the tissue contacting portion of each electrode being flanked by the non-conductive portions of the respective clamping surface; the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current to the electrodes so that, when activated,

the first and second electrodes are operable to create a line of ablation therebetween ~~substantially~~ narrower than the width of the clamping surface.

4. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the closed position.

5. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprise insulating material.

6. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 1 in which the each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.

7. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3 in which each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.